

U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/533,537
Amendment filed April 25, 2007
Reply to OA dated February 27, 2007

REMARKS

Applicants' attorney wishes to thank the Examiner for the courteous and helpful interview of April 24, 2007, during which the present amendments to the drawings, specification and claims, and the prior art were discussed.

Applicants have amended Claim 4 to correct typographical errors therein. No new matter is involved.

The present invention, according to Claim 1 is a connector housing having a bottom wall, ceiling wall, pair of side walls and a plurality of partition walls which form a plurality of terminal-receiving chambers for receiving a metal terminal. A mark is provided on an outer surface of a the wall of the connector housing corresponding to each terminal-receiving chamber, on a surface of the wall flush with an opening of the terminal-receiving chamber and indicates a specified metal terminal to be received by the corresponding terminal-receiving chamber; and each terminal chamber has an inner surface, and a mark also is provided on an end of the inner surface, within the terminal chamber, near the opening of the inner surface of the terminal-receiving chamber, while Claims 4 and 7 are to methods of forming such a connector housing.

In response to the amendment filed November 20, 2006, the Office Action has objected to the drawings and has rejected the claims under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, stating that there is no drawing showing a mark provided on an inner surface and an outer surface, and that the specification does not disclose placement of a mark on an inner surface and on outer surface.

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The Office Action refers to page 29 of the specification which discloses the mark may be provided on an inner surface or an outer surface, but not both.

Applicants have included herewith a proposed additional drawing with Fig. 8 which supports the claims having a mark on an inner surface and an outer surface. This drawing is supported in the specification.

Attention is drawn to the paragraph beginning at line 10 on page 32 of the specification which reads:

“Further, in this embodiment, the mark 21 may be provided on more than one of the surfaces 16a, 17a, 18a, 19a being flush with the opening 20a. Moreover, the mark 21 may be provided on at least one of the surface 16a, 17a, 18a, 19a, and the end 20b near the opening 20a inside the terminal-receiving chamber 20.” (Emphasis added).

Such language clearly supports the claims. The specification has been amended at page 14 and page 32 to conform with the additional drawing. No new matter is present and removal of the objection to the drawings under 37 CFR 1.83 (a) and the rejection of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph and second paragraph are respectfully requested in view of the addition of Fig. 8 and the above remarks.

In the Office Action, Claims 1, 4 and 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious in view of a combination of JP 4-55770 and Endo et al. (U.S. 5,211,583). The Office Action alleges that JP 4-55770 shows the present claimed invention except for the mark being provided on a surface of one of the partition walls surrounding the opening of the chamber, where the surface is flush with

the opening. It then cites Endo et al. to show a connector housing comprising a plurality of chambers 5 for receiving a terminal, wherein a mark 13 is provided on an outer surface of the connector housing corresponding to each terminal-receiving chamber, the surface flush with the opening. Therefore, it is alleged it would have been obvious to modify the connector housing of JP 4-55770 by providing the mark on a surface of one of the partition walls surrounding the opening of the chamber wherein the surface is flush with the opening as taught by Endo et al. as a distinct indicia.

The rejection is, however, based on existence of a mark only on a surface of partition walls. As previously pointed out, however, neither JP-455770 nor Endo et al., nor their combination teach or suggest a structure or method where marks are provided on a surface of a bottom wall, top wall, pair of side walls and plurality of partition walls that form terminal-receiving chambers and on an end of the inner surface, within the terminal chamber, near the opening of the inner surface. In Endo et al., marks are only provided on a separate flange (11) as shown in Fig. 1 or marks (49) are provided on a pair of stopper bodies (47a) and (47b) that are hinged to the frame body (43) through integral hinge portions (45). The marks are not on an end face of the walls forming the terminal-receiving chambers and on an inner surface of a wall of the terminal-receiving chamber as required in the present invention.

The cited references and their combination do not suggest the present connector housing where a mark is provided on the outer surface of a housing wall flush with an opening and also on an inner surface of the terminal receiving chamber.

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In view of the aforementioned amendments and accompanying remarks, Claims 1, 4, and 7 are believed to be patentable and early allowance thereof is respectfully requested.

If, for any reason, it is felt that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the applicants undersigned attorney at the telephone number indicated below to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

In the event that this paper is not timely filed, the applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. Please charge any fees for such an extension of time and any other fees which may be due with respect to this paper, to Deposit Account No. 01-2340.

Respectfully submitted,

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PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

Enclosures: Fig. 8

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IN THE DRAWINGS:

Please add Fig. 8 which is attached to this amendment.